

respectfully traverse this rejection of claims 11-38. In order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants would consider filing a terminal disclaimer over the presently pending claims if these claims are allowed. Applicants respectfully decline to submit an executed terminal disclaimer in this Response for the following reason. No claim is currently allowable and later actions in the prosecution may render the issue of double-patenting moot. For example, Applicants may elect to later file new claims in this application (in a Request for Continued Examination, for example) to patentably distinct subject matter. Such claims that would also be subject to the earlier filing of the terminal disclaimer, even though the newly claimed subject matter would not be subject to a double-patenting rejection. Further, claims subject to the double-patenting rejection may be canceled in future actions again rendering the double-patenting rejection moot.

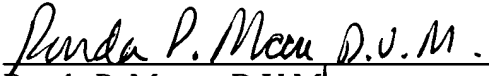
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing arguments presented herein, Applicants submit that the Amendment and Response mailed to the U.S. Patent Office on June 5, 2002, or in the alternative, the Response filed herewith, is fully responsive to the Examiner's double-patenting rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

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